

National Latino Peace Officers Association



Minute Report Executive Board Meeting July 27, 2024

Called to Order: At 9:07 a.m. PST the meeting was called to order by President Nina Medina who then led the members with the United States Pledge of Allegiance. President Medina then asked Secretary Howie to call the roll, followed by a moment of silence for fallen peace officers.

Roll-Call: Called by Secretary Joe Howie. Present were the following board members:

Nina Medina - President

Lori Perez - Eastern Vice President

Beverly Rodriguez - Northern VP

Pedro Lopez - South Central Vice President

Antonio Rodriguez - Western Vice President

Cindy Rodriguez - Parliamentarian

Joe Howie - Secretary

Juan Peralta - Editor

Manuel De La Rosa - Historian

Don Aguilar - California State President

Reyes Trujillo - Colorado State President

Roddy Monsivais - Florida State President

Rigo Aguirre - Minnesota State President

Romaine Gibson - Nevada State President

Manuel De La Rosa - New York State Pres.

Mike Ramirez - Texas State President

Queno Martinez - Nebraska State President

Absent were the following Board Members: Immediate Past President Ken Chavez, Treasurer Jerry Ayala, and Founder Vicente Calderon. Eastern Vice President Lori Perez joined the meeting at about 9:20 a.m.

Guests Present: None

Minute Report:

- The Executive Board Meeting minute report dated June 15, 2024, was presented to the board by Secretary Howie. Howie motioned that the report be approved, seconded by Nevada State President Romaine Gibson. After discussion, the motion carried 14-0-0.
- The Board was notified by Secretary Howie of a change in the March 2024 minute report due to an oversight he discovered. Howie read the change to the board, which was an additional sentence that had been omitted, and asked that the change be accepted. Romaine Gibson seconded the motion. The motion carried 14-0-0. The changed report will be the official report.

Treasure Report:

- TABLED

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President's Report:

- June 19, 2024, President Medina traveled to Oakland, CA, to advocate for Captain Angelica Mendoza and other NLPOA members per the Alameda Chapter request. Captain Mendoza was recently demoted from the rank of deputy chief. President Medina and others met with the new chief of Oakland PD, Floyd Mitchell. Two weeks after this meeting, Captain Mendoza was reinstated to her Deputy Chief status.
- June 20, 2024, President Medina met with the Homeland Security Federal Office of State Local Law Enforcement Community Engagement. Discussed with them training opportunities and information sharing.
- July 14, 2024, President Medina traveled to Las Vegas to attend the UnidosUS conference. UnidosUS is a non-partisan national Latino organization that strives to further representation of Latinos. UnidosUS is the largest Latino organization in the nation. Over 1500 were in attendance at the conference. President Medina obtained information regarding application for affiliation. A benefit of affiliation is access to support services including grants. Applications for membership are accepted twice a year in, April and November.
- President Medina stated she forwarded the letter of reconciliation authored by Queno Martinez to Greg Gonzalez via email on July 16, 2024.

Old Business:

- Awards Committee-Ratification of Recipients Selected: Mike Ramirez and Lori Perez requested that all names, bio and applicants for awards be forwarded to the entire board prior to accepting the recommendations of the committee. In the future, this should routinely occur after the Awards Committee has vetted the candidates and have made their recommendations. Juan Peralta, chairman of the committee, stated he mailed the list of candidates to the board in May, confirmed by Queno Martinez. Approving the recommendations was tabled.
- Report on National Conference - TABLED

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New Business:

- President Medina opened discussion regarding the complaint by member Greg Gonzalez against her. Medina stated Senior VP Pete Lopez would lead the meeting regarding the complaint at the conclusion of the regular national meeting, as she needs to remove herself.
- Texas State President Mike Ramirez requested that state presidents obtain the race demographics of law enforcement agencies their members are employed with, and to provide him with the information. This is in regard to exploration by Ramirez. The state presidents were asked to obtain the information within 30-days.
- Parliamentarian Cindy Rodriguez motioned that the National Board send a letter of support to Kathy Gonzalez of the “Old” Omaha Chapter regarding a million-dollar judgment that was recently upheld in court that Kathy won. The judgement was against the Omaha Police Department in regards to an employment complaint against the city of Omaha, the chief of police and the mayor. There was discussion and ultimately the majority of the board believed the president has sole discretion on such matters. A vote was not called.
- State President Mike Ramirez motioned that the “Old” Omaha Chapter be allowed to be reestablished. The motion was seconded by Nevada State President Antonio Rodriguez. The motion failed 2-12-1. Mike Ramirez and Antonio Rodriguez were in favor of the motion and Queno Martinez abstained.
- The board members of the past NLPOA Omaha Chapter were suspended in December 2022 by the national board after it was learned board members of the chapter were being investigated by the FBI for misuse of donated funds over a 6-7 year period. In April 2023, Johnny Palermo, Richard Gonzalez, Vincent Palermo and Jack Olson, aka Cody Jones, were indicted by a U.S. Grand Jury and charged with financial crimes by the United States Attorney’s Office, District of Nebraska. Johnny Palermo and Richard Gonzalez were board members and both subsequently pled guilty to a financial crime and they were sentenced to federal prison. Vincent Palermo also pled guilty and Jack Olson is scheduled to go on trial in September 2024. In November 2023, dues check of \$120 was received by the national treasurer for the memberships of Greg Gonzalez (suspended, was VP), Kathy Gonzalez (Director), George Merithew and Puht Dek for calendar years 2023-2024, dues of \$30 per member. Historically, annual dues of \$60 is collected from potential members who wish to support the NLPOA but do not know of a local chapter to join. Generally, these

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members are assigned a chapter closet to their residence as all members must belong to a local chapter.

After discussion, Secretary Howie motioned that the suspension of the “Old” Omaha Chapter Board Members be lifted, with exceptions and a caveat. The exception is that no past member convicted of a crime surrounding illegal use of NLPOA Omaha Chapter funds be allowed reinstatement of membership. The caveat was that all members must join a local chapter of their choice by a chapter that is willing to accept them within 30-days of being notified of this rule. If they fail, they will not be members in good standing. Texas President Mike Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion carried 15-0-0.

Ad Hoc Committee:

- Motion by Romaine Gibson, seconded by Beverly Rodriguez, to accept the “Old” Omaha Chapter ad hoc committee report as it is. The motion carried 13-2-0. Pete Lopez and Mike Ramirez opposed the motion. The ad hoc committee’s recommendations was to dissolve the Omaha Chapter Foundation and allow the creation of a 501c3 entity following Article 25 of the NLPOA bylaws.

Vice President Reports

- Eastern – Lori Perez (TABLED)
- Northern – Beverly Rodriguez (TABLED)
- Central – Pete Lopez (TABLED)
- Western – Antonio Rodriguez (TABLED)

Next National Board Meeting: August 17, 2024

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. PST by President Medina

Special Meeting reconvened immediately following the board meeting that Pete Lopez chaired:

On July 19, 2024, Parliamentarian Rodriguez and Secretary Howie received via email a formal complaint against President Medina from NLPOA member Greg Gonzalez, a past board member of the ‘old’ Omaha Chapter. Cindy Rodriguez forwarded the complaint to Senior Vice President Pete Lopez for consideration. VP Lopez forwarded the complaint to the national board, with the exception of President Medina as outlined in the bylaws. Board members Cindy Rodriguez,

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Mike Ramirez and Pete Lopez signed the complaint. VP Lopez convened the executive board meeting to discuss the matter at the conclusion of the regular board meeting.

After discussion, VP Lopez motioned that the complaint be investigated, seconded by Mike Ramirez, Secretary Howie clarified that a “No” vote would be a vote not to investigate Greg Gonzalez’ complaint. Howie polled the board members. Following is the result of the votes:

1. Beverly Rodriguez - No
2. Pedro Lopez - Yes
3. Antonio Rodriguez –Yes
4. Cindy Rodriquez –Yes
5. Joe Howie –No
6. Juan Peralta – No
7. Manuel De La Rosa – Yes
8. Don Aguilar - Yes
9. Reyes Trujillo - Yes
10. Rigo Aguirre - No
11. Romaine Gibson - No
12. Mike Ramirez - Yes
13. Queno Martinez – No
14. Lori Perez – No

Secretary Howie stated it was his opinion that Pete Lopez, who was acting president for the purpose of the meeting, was not allowed to vote except to break a tie, as outlined in the bylaws. New York State President Manuel De La Rosa stated the motion failed anyways as a majority is needed for a motion to pass. Parliamentarian Rodriguez stated she would confirm the outcome with the NLPOA’s legal counsel.

Vote Talley: 7-7-0 or 6-7-0... motion failed. (Attorney Howard Liberman subsequently confirmed that the motion failed).

Report by: Joe Howie, National Board Secretary

Approved by: The National Board meeting of August 17, 2024.